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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

POLICY ISSUES

Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997

Addendum

Adoption of the programme

Draft decision proposed by the Executive Director

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), reconfirming the mandate of UNEP and requiring that its Governing Council "continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective",

Recognizing that the Governing Council in its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993 noted, inter alia, that the programme of UNEP "will have to be further developed in the future in order to incorporate changes required by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development",

Aware that the context in which UNEP functions has changed and expectations about its potential have grown and that the post-UNCED context demands a strengthened role for UNEP as the leading instrument of the international community to raise the world's consciousness about the actions which are creating negative environmental conditions,

Aware that the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 has been prepared taking into account the priorities assigned to UNEP by Agenda 21, the activities in support of international environmental conventions, UNEP's role in the Global Environment Facility, and the expressed needs of Governments as articulated in extensive consultations and various forums,

1. Decides to adopt the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/9;

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* UNEP/GC.18/1.

2. Endorses the approach of the Executive Director to issue-based programmes, which is the cornerstone of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997;

3. Further endorses the approach whereby the range of programme activities is focused without narrowing the scope of its environmental agenda in order to make UNEP a more effective organization with a potentially greater impact on the environment scene;

4. Encourages the Executive Director to continue providing support to strategic decision-making, engaging all sectors of society, strengthening regional presence and programmes in an effort to make UNEP the principal body on matters related to the environment as espoused in the proposed programme of work.